









هكذا من الجرح

Europeans Act to Aid Refugees' Admission

By Mary Battista
Washington Post Service
GENEVA — European countries are expanding an emergency United Nations meeting here Thursday on the Balkan refugee crisis to get aside the usual legal procedures and offer temporary shelter to any refugees who find their way to their borders, UN officials said.

- The U.S. election
- Civil war in Yugoslavia
- The breakup of the Soviet empire
- Partition in Czechoslovakia
- The global recession

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INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNE

Take a Look at Europe

The bitter exchange between the Clinton and Bush camps over Bosnia this week marked one of the rare instances when foreign policy has touched the presidential campaign. Yet even this was no real debate. The press secretary, Marlin Fitzwater, tried to paint Bill Clinton as a dangerous amateur for suggesting that he would not rule out selective air strikes against Serbian targets. But the Democratic candidate actually hewed closely to the overcautious administration line on the Yugoslav crisis.

The BCCI Indictments

With the indictments on Wednesday, the BCCI case — the greatest banking scandal in financial history — comes more fully into view. Because Clark Clifford has been a major figure in Washington for some 45 years, the charges against him and his law partner, Robert A. Altman, will get much attention. But they were not the central figures in the enormous conspiracy that these indictments portray. Mr. Clifford and Mr. Altman were only working for others and, according to the charges, taking bribes to do that work.

Other Comment

Terror Is Saddam's Secret

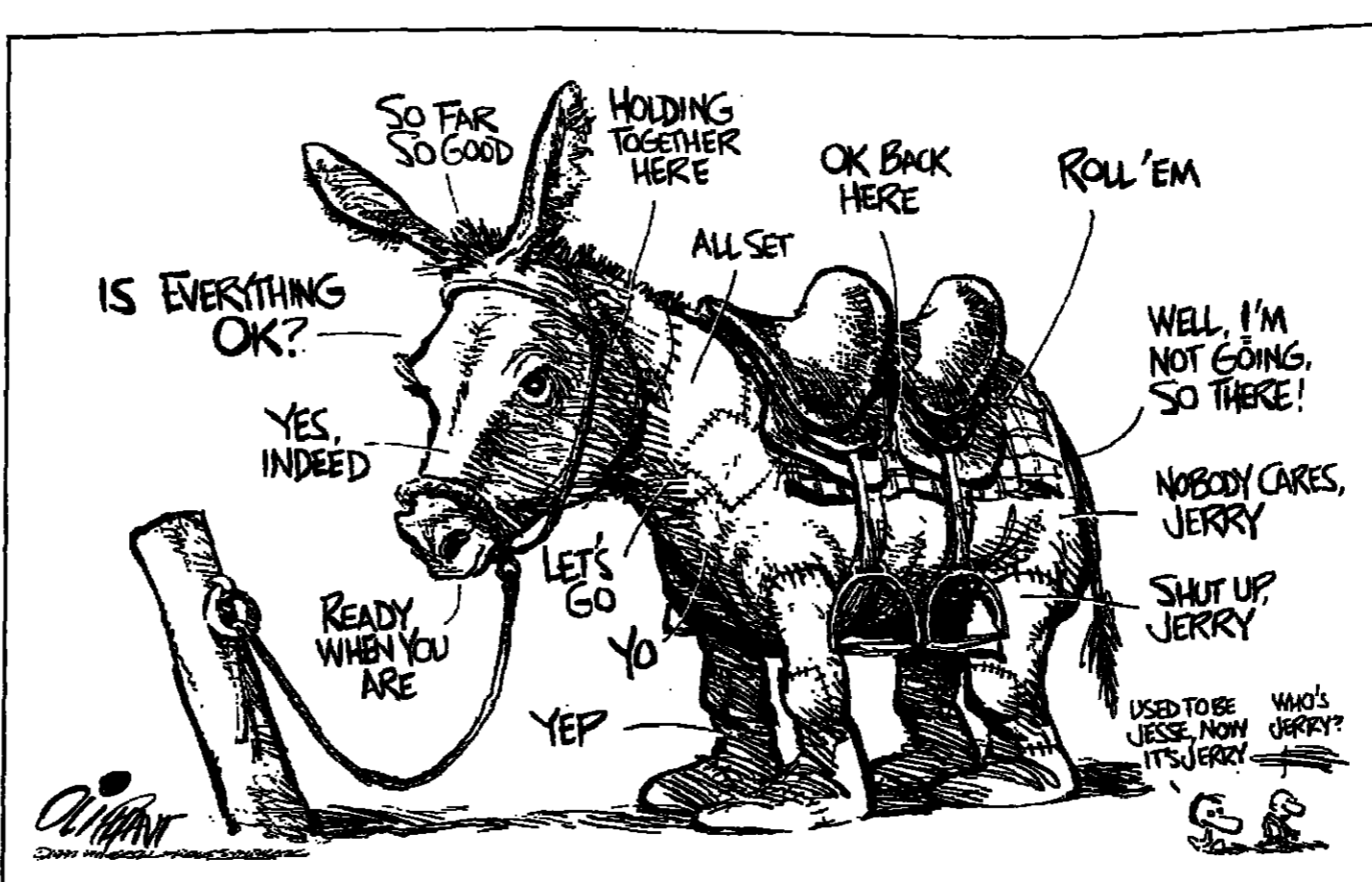
What keeps Saddam Hussein in power? A recent report noted the severe economic, medical and other hardships brought on by the Gulf War and international economic sanctions, which have paralyzed the infrastructure and disrupted basic supplies. How is it possible that the man responsible for all this can continue to rule? How is it that the punitive, and highly personalized, emphy of some of the most powerful countries in the world does not bring him down?

Money at the Olympics

The modern series of Games, revived in 1896 by that tragic French enthusiast, Baron de Coubertin, often excluded the best athletes simply because they were tainted by a hint of professionalism. Nowadays out and out professionals represent their countries at the Games. Even the case-hardened amateur athletic associations have bent their rules to the extent that athletes are now able to accept lucrative sponsorships and appear in advertisements. The more outstanding individuals are paid handsome sums to lend their names to somebody's equipment.

Boosting Press Freedom in the East

WASHINGTON — Boris Yeltsin's ongoing battle with his parliament to prevent Yezovia from becoming a house organ is yet another illustration of the struggle the media face to be free of government control in the ex-Soviet Union and the former Warsaw Pact countries. The Communist Party has been dissolved; the Soviet Union is a relic of history, and new leaders proclaim their dedication to democracy and free-market principles. But glasnost remains a distant goal.



Treating the Balkan Disease With Empty Gestures

ADEN, Austria — The fighting moves from one area to another in ex-Yugoslavia as territorial control is established. But it is a mistake to think that the war is anywhere near winding down, and that the powers making such resounding public noise about the tragedy are doing much to stop it. The declaration of an arms embargo and sanctions has been a charade. United Nations officials in the field have recently seen West German-made Leopard tanks with Croatian forces in western Bosnia-Herzegovina. These officials say the Croats have greatly strengthened their air capacity in the last three months with MiGs that once belonged to East Germany. Austrian and other weapons are flowing south across the Hungarian border.

Yes, Violent Men Can Be Confronted and Beaten

WASHINGTON — There is a tantalizing resemblance between the worlds of 1992 and 1918. The great sins of the century seem to have left few traces in our consciousness. The Western world is again preoccupied, as in 1918, with democracy, nationality and self-determination. ("I am proud to be an Eritrean," the bumper sticker on a car at a Washington intersection recently proclaimed.) They all go together. Democracy, nationality and self-determination reinforce one another nicely. But hard experience demonstrates that all are vulnerable to violent movements and violent men like Iraq's Saddam Hussein and Serbia's Slobodan Milosevic.

1892: Bismarck Hailed

JENA — A heavy thunderstorm delayed the triumphal entry of Prince Bismarck into this city this evening (July 30), but as soon as the weather had cleared, the Prince started his progress through the streets to the Hotel Baer, where he will stay during his sojourn. The acclamations of the people were enthusiastic, as in civilian's dress, and with uncovered head, the old statesman drove through the crowded thoroughfares. When he reached the hotel the cheers of the people broke out with renewed vigor and Prince Bismarck twice had to come out onto the balcony to acknowledge the popular plaudits.

1942: Russia Stops Nazis

MOSCOW — [From our New York edition.] Inspired by a call from Premier Josef V. Stalin to obey the examples of some of the great heroes of the most desperate hours of Russia's history, the Red Army hurled the Germans back in their thrust at Stalingrad (on July 30) and waged a battle to annihilate those of the enemy who crossed the Don south of Tsimiyanak, the Russians announced today. At Voronezh, too, on the German north Don flank, the Germans gave up new positions in the course of bitter fighting.

1917: Unrest in Catalonia

BARCELONA — Some light is thrown on the unrest in Spain from the correspondent of the Paris Press. Speaking of the recent troubles in Valencia, he says they were a direct result of press censorship. As the

The Champ Is Behind On Points

By Leslie H. Gelb  
NEW YORK — Bill Clinton spent considerable time in the last week trying to support George Bush's efforts on Iraq and Bosnia, the world's current flash points. The White House responded to these endorsements by calling the Democratic nominee "reckless" and unfit to manage America's security. One trembles to contemplate the adjectives the White House will hurl at the Arkansas governor when he actually takes issue with the president's foreign policy.

Clinton wants to stay close to the president on Iraq

tags here by embracing his policies on many big, tough issues. Since last December Mr. Clinton has stressed his appreciation of anti-Soviet Cold War policies, his backing of the Gulf War and his willingness to use force to defend America's vital interests. Mr. Clinton — who seems to be a genuine foreign policy moderate — acknowledges that he is not about to let Republicans tag him with being "weak and softheaded," as they did his luckless predecessors. In recent days he extended that thinking to Iraq and Bosnia.

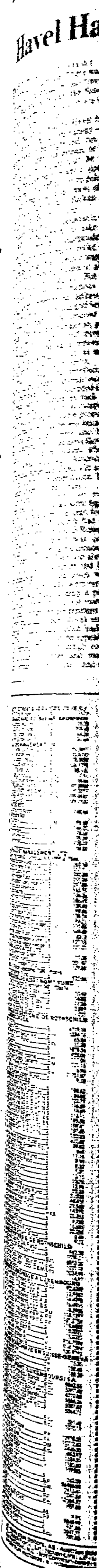
Clearly, this is not working. But what can be done?

The elaborate architecture for collective security in Europe — United Nations, European Community, Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, NATO, Western European Union — has proved ineffective in the face of aggression. Is the hope of controlling aggression unrealistic? Is it just a matter of time until another Hitler or another Lenin rises in the ashes of communism? The failure is not in the goal but in its pursuit. We have made unnecessary mistakes. The decision to leave Saddam Hussein in power was a terrible mistake — and not just George Bush's error, but that of all those coalition leaders who, like him, worried more about creating a vacuum of power or fragmenting Iraq than about the future harm that Saddam would do.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

newspapers on July 20 gave no account of the previous day's meeting of Catalanian Deputies here, the people of Valencia imagined that there had been bloodshed and wished to associate themselves with the "revolution." Catalanian Deputies will shortly hold another reunion. Once more the Cabinet will have to mobilize the police and the army.

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OPINION

Havel Has Set a Serious Standard

By William Pfaff

PARIS — Czechoslovakia's end comes as no surprise. There was an artificiality to its creation that foretold a short history, although the Slovaks have broken up the union as likely to suffer from its loss.

The departure of Vaclav Havel from public life — if this is permanent — is perhaps more to be regretted, not because he was a great statesman, or had the time to demonstrate that he was such, but because he brought a quality of detachment and reflection to politics rare at any time, and rarest of all today in East, Central and Balkan Europe, and the ex-Soviet Union.

Czechoslovakia existed because it was convenient for the Czechs to take the Slovaks with them into independence when the Hapsburg Empire broke up. The Czechs earlier had simply wanted reform of the Hapsburg system so as to make it a federation of equals. But the First World War proved ruinous for Austria, which experienced defeat in the early battles with Russian and Serbian armies and had to be rescued by Germany. The Austro-Hungarian government afterward found itself increasingly powerless, all the war's important decisions on economic as well as military matters being made in Berlin.

Thomas Masaryk, the intellectual who had led the Czech national movement in the prewar years, concluded that the Czechs had no future in such an Austria and called for national independence. It was a more plausible proposition if the related Slovak people became part of the new state. There also had been a big emigration of landless Slovak peasants to the United States, where Masaryk (whose wife was American) had mobilized American Czechs in support of his country's independence. The two emigrant groups joined forces.

Their success was such that even though Czechs and Slovaks were fighting in the Austrian army (except for a Czech Legion, which Masaryk had recruited from prisoners of war in Russia), the American government was convinced that it should declare Czechoslovakia's "liberation" an allied war aim.

The war ended, the country did become independent, but the union was not a success. The Slovaks were bitter that Slovakia was made merely a province, without the promised autonomy. After Munich, when the government of the newly truncated Czechoslovak state dismissed Slovakia's nationalist leader, Josef Tiso, a Catholic priest, he appealed to the Germans. They obligingly took over the Czech provinces and made them a German "protectorate," and set

Slovakia up as a nominally independent state, allied to Nazi Germany. This, of course, did no good for the subsequent reputation of Slovakian nationalism.

Vaclav Havel has said that his ambition for Czechoslovakia has been that it become "a stable Central European democracy that has found its identity and learned to live with itself." He also said that if Slovakia wished "its own star on the future flag of Europe, and its own seat at the table," this would be so.

And so the Slovaks have decided. The details remain to be settled, supposedly by the end of September, but Slovakia has declared its sovereignty, if not yet its outright independence. This has prompted Mr. Havel's resignation as president of a Czechoslovak state that will cease to exist.

He has sometimes been criticized as a sentimental moralizer, but these criticisms typically come from people who have never themselves gone to prison as a consequence of any demonstration of moral courage. Mr. Havel has, and he is convinced of the practicality of political action subordinated to conscience.

He holds that communism "was overthrown by life, by thought, by human dignity." He adds that in his view "genuine conscience and genuine responsibility are always, in the end, explicable only as an expression of the silent assumption that we are being observed 'from above.'"

"Our death ends nothing, because everything is forever being recorded and evaluated somewhere else... in what I have called 'the memory of Being,' an integral aspect of the secret order of the cosmos, of nature, and of life, which believes call God and to whose judgment everything is liable."

He acknowledges that in politics the pursuit of decency, civility, reason, responsibility "is not exactly a practical way of going about it. At the same time, however, I have one great advantage; among my many bad qualities there is one that is fortunately missing: a longing or a love for power. Not being bound by it, I am essentially free from those who, when all is said and done, cling to their power or their position somewhat more, and this allows me the luxury of behaving un tactically."

Czechoslovakia was the better for a president who said such things, and its two successor states will be the worse for having lost him, if he indeed remains out of politics.

The international community is the worse for it, too, not because this playwright's brief passage as Czechoslovakia's president changed anything grand, but because the things he said in office, and the manner in which he said them, gave us a standard against which to measure others, and allowed us the possibility of thinking that a serious level of public discourse might be possible among us as well.

International Herald Tribune. © Los Angeles Times Syndicate.



Olympic Spectator

So the Father of the Bride Really Said These Things?

By Edwin M. Yoder Jr.

CHAPEL HILL, North Carolina — She looked up at me laughing, this young woman whom I first saw, red and wrinkled, through a maternity ward window in August 1959. "Daddy," she said, "this is the silliest wedding I've ever been to."

She squeezed my arm, which was beginning to tremble a bit. The organist played on, and on, omitting many a note of Bach following the first notes of the processional march. She looked radiant in the wedding dress her mother had worn, years before, in this very church. To a father's fond eye, she rivaled the Botticelli Venus.

Her own eyes sparkled, as usual, with merriment at the comedy of things. The

ter, a new-minted doctor of esoteric sciences, "a good egg" who, with her young man, was entering "a complex relationship." He had gone on to philosophy extensively, and fatuously. Or so he was informed the next day.

The father of the bride was admittedly a bit spacey. It was, after all, his second most important wedding — and, especially, shockingly expensive. Yet somehow the Champagne was drunk, the toasts offered, silly and sober, the photos taken, the feast consumed, the dear friends gathered in a warm glow, and the two youngsters hitched.

Later, driving home, the parents compared notes. Both felt pleasure, but also a touch of sadness and perhaps a touch of anxiety — that old visceral tightness that parents feel when they must let go — as if paying out yet another untested length of that tether of love and concern that binds generations, which must be both infinitely strong and infinitely flexible.

But what was a locked dress fitter's shop, or the challenges of the married estate, to this reasonable girl? What terrors could life hold for one who had trekked the jungles on the trail of mouse lemurs, who had even walked a dog in Central Park? What futures of invention could be feared of someone who could sequence DNA? A cherished family photo shows her, all 110 diminutive pounds, surrounded by "natives," peering in boots and jodhpurs and pith helmet from amid what look like carnivorous plants, somewhere in the wilds of Madagascar lemur country. What marriage, after challenges so splendidly weathered?

Well, it may not be terrifying, but it is something. If you listen closely to the old and awesome words of the ceremony — two people joined, till death, by a power mightier than man or science — it will take your breath away.

Marriage is an act of grace, faith and hope, in a world beyond mortal capacities. But there is a human side. Our old friend David Williams, the officiating clergyman, said it best. A wedding is no solo act for two, of which the others are mere spectators. It is an act of community affirmation as well. For without the friends and family, gathered to testify to their love and regard for these two, and to reinforce the solemn vows they were making, where would they be? David Williams was so right. Without community, where is marriage? Or the world itself?

Washington Post Writers Group.

MEANWHILE

processional was 25 minutes late, and the throng of friends at the old church was now quite steeped in Bach.

What she meant by "silly" was that, earlier that afternoon, much of her essential wedding regalia had been locked up in the dress fitter's shop, and the dress fitter had herself disappeared. Her shoes, her lovingly handmade hairpieces, the blue garter and the lucky sixpence borrowed from our old friend Judy Exum, and her grandmother's engagement ring — all had been accidentally locked behind doors the Chapel Hill police said they could not force.

Now, however, the crisis was over. The dress fitter was found, her door unlocked, the precious items retrieved and relayed to the church and hastily fitted, while the guests, now going down for the third time in a sea of Bach, had been assured that "a wedding will indeed begin in a few minutes."

Maybe silly was the word. But the great ceremonies of life have a way of developing such mixups, just to remind us of life's larger uncertainties. A ring is lost, a door locked, an item misplaced, a plane fogged in, or the best man wakes up with a nervous stomach.

The affair of the items left at the dress fitter's shop was no sillier, in any case, than the toast offered by the father of the bride the evening before. The father's memory was very dim. He had the happy impression that he had been eloquent, that a rather bibulous evening had set wings to his words.

Actually, he is alleged to have called this accomplished and beautiful daugh-

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Does Democracy Work?

Regarding "No, America Doesn't Have to Go Under" (Opinion, July 21):

Felix Rohatyn's reasonable proposals for solving the United States' social and economic ills, echoed a few days later by the fallen Ross Perot, center on huge public investment programs largely funded by an energy tax — a good idea in itself that other Western countries have long accepted. But the chances of the American electorate voting such a tax are almost nil.

Self-interest, we are unlikely to accept austerity measures until too late — after the apocalypse. This leads to the next question: Is it not time to debate the merits of popular democracy? Is this system able to solve complex problems and make unpleasant choices, or is it essentially

suited to fair-weather conditions? Tyranny is not the sole alternative.

JAMES VASSELIER, Gourdon, France.

Norway and Whaling

Regarding "A Harpoon for Norway" (Letters, July 23):

Bob Ritter claims that Norway, in announcing that it will resume the hunt for minke whales next year, "seems world opinion." He suggests that Norway be suspended as host to the 1994 Winter Olympics. Why? The minke has never been in danger of extinction. On the contrary, it threatens the existence of the larger blue whale.

Off Norway's coast, there are thousands of minke whales for every blue whale. Minke whales devour not only

fish but the krill, the tiny crustaceans that are the main food of blue whales. A blue whale needs 5 tons (4,500 kilograms) of krill a day. Thus, scientists say, we must save the blue whale by reducing the number of minke.

Some claim that the killing of whales is barbaric. But it is quick and painless, far from the torture we see at a bullfight in the land where the Olympic flag of brotherhood flies today. Norway can proudly fly this symbol in 1994.

FRITHJOF NICOLAYSEN, Oslo.

In Arms Over Tattoos

In response to the report "The Russian Intelligence Adrift" (July 20), I wonder why you chose to include the quote from a teacher that "low-class

people with tattoos are getting rich." Is it necessary to contribute to the negative stereotyping of tattoos in this way, particularly in an article discussing art and intellectualism?

Your paper is widely read and respected. Do you assume that your tattooed readers, of whatever class, appreciate reading such comments? Surely not.

ALANA J. BUCH, Bonn.

Letters intended for publication should be addressed "Letters to the Editor" and contain the writer's signature, name and full address. Letters should be brief and are subject to editing. We cannot be responsible for the return of unsolicited manuscripts.

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INTERNATIONAL FUNDS July 30, 1992

Table listing various international funds with columns for fund name, currency, and price. Includes sections for 'Other Funds' and 'AMERICAN INVESTMENT SERVICES CO. (A.I.S.)'.





L E T T E R S U R E

A Little Bit of Thailand in Paris

By Patricia Wells  
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — There are restaurant menus that challenge me to a marathon, that is, to sample my way through the entire menu, from giant shrimp sautéed with ginger and chives, to such spirit-lifting dishes as *poulet sautéé levain*, or "rising sun chicken," sautéed poultry with a coconut-based sauce. Lao Siam, a six-year-old Lao and Thai restaurant on the Rue de Belleville, is a bit like that, with a multi-page menu that offers foods of Laos, Thailand and China.

Run by two Thai brothers — 42-year-old Pehkam is in the kitchen while 39-year-old Tame runs the front of the house — Lao Siam is one of dozens of Asian restaurants to crowd the 19th and 20th arrondissements, where new parks, high-rises and run-down cafes, wine bars, and now Asian shops and markets vie for attention. With a varied cuisine that's based on very fresh and largely inexpensive ingredients, Lao Siam is a favorite among the embassy crowds from all Asian

nations, including the Philippines, Singapore and Taiwan.

One dish not to miss is the *tourteau au diable*, a whole crab that's cut up, sautéed and topped with a very thick coconut milk-based sauce seasoned with hot pepper and strips of fresh celery. It's one of those intimately satisfying and filling dishes, and one crab is easily enough to feed two as a main course.

ALSO worth the Metro ride is the *cajoles sur hachis d'ail*, a brace of whole quail chopped into bite-size pieces, quickly deep-fried and topped with a crispy combination of garlic and onions. As an accompaniment, order the classic sticky rice (*ric glutin*), a super-chewy and substantial rice traditionally eaten with the fingers, by pinching walnut-sized lumps that are rolled into a ball with one hand. Here, as in many Thai restaurants, the rice is served in beautiful covered handwoven baskets.

This is also the sort of place where everyone looks at what everyone else is eating, and if it looks good, an order is quickly placed for another serving of *boeuf mille épices* or *gambar au château*. I counted no less than a dozen

delicious looking main dishes being served to the Laotian table of six next to us.

A soothing dessert is the *citron givré*, or a whole lemon that's carved out, filled with lemon sorbet, then frozen.

Across the street, at Lao-Thai, another bright and pleasantly air-conditioned restaurant along the Rue de Belleville, the cuisine is a bit less inventive but no less appealing. Try especially the *saucisse thai*, thin and lightly spicy pork sausage served with salad and herbs; refreshing Thai salads based on chicken, shrimp or beef; and a gently spiced curry of lamb.

Service at both is quick, efficient and friendly, and the budget-minded should know it's all right to simply order one of the endless bowls of soup, terrific bargains at around 35 francs (\$7).

Lao Siam, 49 Rue de Belleville, Paris 19; tel: 40.40.09.68. Open daily, nonstop service, noon to 11:30 P.M. Credit card: Visa. A la carte, 50 to 150 francs per person, not including wine. Lao-Thai, 34 Rue de Belleville, Paris 20; tel: 42.38.41.84. Closed Monday. Credit card: Visa. A la carte, 50 to 150 francs per person, not including wine.

Ins and Outs of Duty-Free Buying

By Carl Sommers  
New York Times Service

FOR many, shopping is as vital a part of traveling as watching the changing of the guard at Buckingham Palace or visiting the Louvre.

To encourage spending, some countries offer tax rebates on purchases tourists take home. After making a purchase, you fill out a form, presenting a passport and perhaps a plane ticket to prove you live somewhere else. On leaving the country, you get the form stamped at customs to get your refund. The official will want to see your purchases, so you should have them in your carry-on luggage; keep them in their original boxes or bags to show they are new and unused. Allow extra time at the airport for the procedures, especially if you want to cash your rebate check on the spot; the French government, for example, recommends arriving two hours before check-in time.

Some stores issue refunds themselves or use private concerns to handle them; one such group is European Tax-Free Shopping, which operates in 13 countries and represents about 80,000 stores.

Here are some examples of how the system works.

BRITAIN

The VAT is 17.5 percent on all goods except food, children's clothing and books. A minimum purchase, typically \$100 to \$300, is generally required. Two services that merged recently, *Faxco Tax-Free Shopping* and *Euro-*

pean Tax-Free Shopping, (081) 785 3277, represent about 20,000 outlets and require a £50 (about \$100) minimum in total purchases to handle a refund. Vouchers, received at the time of purchase and stamped by customs, are taken to a Tax Free Shopping booth in the airport departure lounge. Refunds are issued in British sterling, a check in dollars or as credit on a credit-card account, all minus 3 percent or £15, whichever is lower. There are booths at Heathrow, Gatwick, Stansted, Manchester and Glasgow airports.

FRANCE

The VAT is 18.6 percent for most items. Refunds are given for purchases that total at least 2,000 francs (about \$400) in one shop. Large department stores (*Galeries Lafayette*, *Printemps*, etc.) are required to rebate 13 percent of the purchase price, while smaller stores can establish their own rate. Customers ask for an invoice called a *bordereau de détaxe*. On leaving, get the invoices stamped by the *bureau de détaxe* at the airport or train station. Refunds are issued in the form of a check in francs, charge-card credit or bank-to-bank transfer. There is also direct cash refund, in francs, available at the UBP (*Union des Banques de Paris*) cashier at the airport; if you want cash, ask the shop for a *bordereau aeroport*. Information: (01) 47.57.26.48.

GERMANY

The VAT is 14 percent on all goods except food, which is 7 percent, and is in any case nonrefundable. Stores offer refunds of 10 to 13 percent of the purchase price. The minimum purchase usually is 50 marks (about \$35) per store. On purchase ask for a tax-free

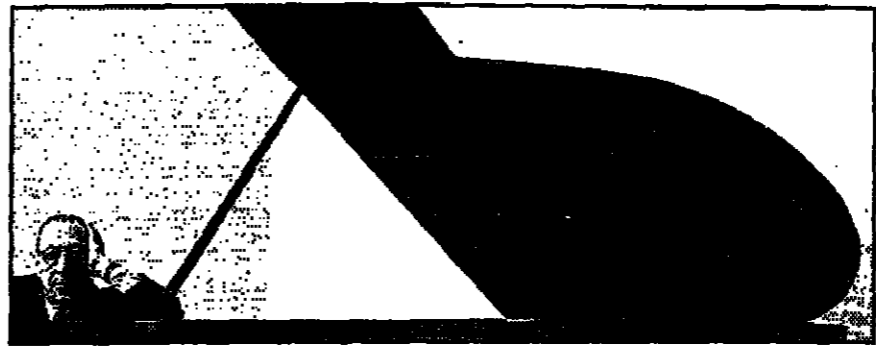
check form, which you will have stamped by customs when you leave Germany (allow about 30 minutes extra). At a European Tax-Free Shopping counter at the train station or airport, present the stamped check to get your refund in dollars, marks, bank transfer or charge-card credit. Information: ETS, (690) 66099 (at Frankfurt airport).

ITALY

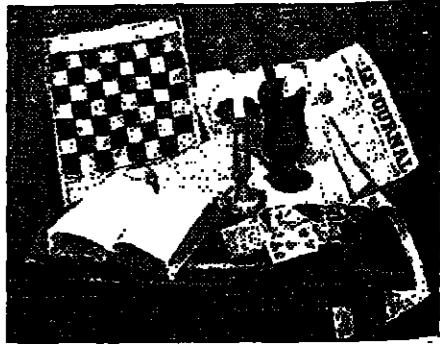
The tax (called IVA) is 12 percent on leather shoes, china, glass and clothing (19 percent on leather garments), and 19 percent on cameras and most jewelry. The tax is 38 percent on most furs and platinum jewelry. This refund program is for big spenders. The minimum purchase in a store must be 930,000 lire (about \$845), not including the tax, and that amount must be spent on one item or on goods of the same type. For items taxed at 12 percent, there is a service charge of 2.5 percent; for items taxed at 19 percent the charge is 3.5 percent, and for goods taxed at 38 percent, the maximum service charge is 4.5 percent.

Through the Europe Tax-Free Shopping service, with about 500 Italian stores participating, the shop issues a check for the refund. The check, stamped by customs, can be cashed in various currencies at a Tax-Free Cash Refund point at the Milan, Genoa, Verona and Rome airports, usually in duty-free shops. You can also ask to have a check mailed to your home, or to get the refund in the form of a bank-to-bank transfer or charge-card credit. Stores that are not part of the system will send you a check in dollars once they receive your mailed receipts, stamped by customs. Information: (0332) 287009.

THE ARTS GUIDE



From left to right: Arnold Newman's photograph of Stravinsky, Washington; Henryk Hayden painting, Warsaw.



AUSTRALIA

Sydney Australian Museum (tel: 339.8111). To Aug. 30: "Masks." Exhibition of Aboriginal In masks as well as works in other materials from the Pacific islands, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and East Asia.

AUSTRIA

Vienna The Imperial Sound Experience: Vienna's Summer of Music (tel: 40.00.84.10). A program of concerts, jazz happenings and opera performances, held in imperial venues. Includes Mozart's "Don Giovanni." To Sept. 30.

BRITAIN

Glasgow Kelvingrove Art Museum (tel: 357.3929). To Aug. 30: Retrospective of the works of John Bellamy, one of Scotland's most prolific and successful artists.

LONDON

Barbican (tel: 538.4141). To Sept. 2: "A. D. 92." Five hundred works by 50 contemporary British and international artists. Museum of London (tel: 600.3699). To Oct. 4: "The Streets of London: Evocative Watercolors by H. E. Tidmarsh." Paintings depicting city scenes.

CANADA

Montreal Musée d'Art Contemporain de Montréal (tel: 873.2878). To Oct. 11: "Pour la Suite du Monde." An international show, in which one-third of the art work is created by Canadians, inaugurates the contemporary art museum. Toronto George R. Gardiner Museum of Ceramic Art (tel: 586.8080). To Aug. 16: "Of Cabbages and Kings: Naturalist Ceramics 1700-1850."

DENMARK

Humblebaek Louisiana Museum of Modern Art (tel: 42.19.07.19). To Aug. 8: "Jeff Wall." Features works by this Canadian photographer, most of them stemming from the past decade. To Aug. 23: "Spain at Louisiana: Photo-

graphy and Design 1970-92." Focuses on Spanish photography and design starting from shortly before the death of Franco.

FRANCE

Chartres Musée des Beaux-Arts (tel: 37.36.41.39). To Oct. 5: "Inca Art in the Museums of the City of Cuzco." Religious artifacts, ceramics and weapons. Ghreny Musée Américain (tel: 32.51.94.65). To Nov. 1: "Lasting Impressions: American Painters in France 1865-1915." Ninety paintings by 40 American painters, including V. B. Prendergast, D. R. Knight and Vary Cassatt.

GERMANY

Paris Bibliothèque Nationale (tel: 47.03.81.26). To Sept. 13: From Bonnard to Baselitz." A panorama of some of the most beautiful engravings the library has acquired over the last few years. Parc de la Villette (tel: 42.40.76.10). To Aug. 16: "Urban Uprising." The installations by Pia Myrvold and Randy Naylor, Norwegian artists, are lively architectural creations.

MONACO

Monte-Carlo Marisa del Re Gallery (tel: 93.25.65.99). To Sept. 30: "Fernando Botero." The Colombian artist's monumental sculptures.

NETHERLANDS

Groningen Groninger Museum (tel: 18.33.43). To Sept. 20: Exhibition of vases, carpets and watches by artists, designers and architects. Utrecht Centraal Museum (tel: 36.23.62). To Aug. 23: "Dumb Painting." Eight artists from the minimal, or pure, art school display their work.

IRELAND

Dublin The Irish Museum of Modern Art (tel: 71.8565). To Sept. 6: "Gordon Lambert Collection." Works by leading international and Irish artists of the 1950s, '60s and '70s.

ISRAEL

Jerusalem The Israel Museum (tel: 708.811).

JAPAN

Tokyo Hara Museum of Contemporary Art (tel: 3445.0551). To Aug. 30: "Through Their Own Eyes." Personal portfolios of two great 20th-century American photographers: Edward Weston and Ansel Adams. Mingeikan, Japan Folk Crafts Museum (tel: 34.61.45.27). To Sept. 27: "The Beauty of Indigo: A Living Color." Includes 20 tie-dyed works called *arimatsu shibori* and 200 blue and white objects.

RUSSIA

Moscow Kolomenskoye Museum (tel: 115.23.88). To Aug. 19: "Three Generations of American Impressionists." Includes the works of Henry C. White (1861-1952), Nelson G. White (1900-89) and Nelson H. White (1932-).

SPAIN

Barcelona Museo Picasso (tel: 315.47.81). To Sept. 20: Two hundred and sixty graphic works by Max Ernst.

SWEDEN

Stockholm Nationalmuseum (tel: 666.42.50). To Oct. 4: "Louis Jean Desprez." Topographical views, stage decorations and architecture by the French stage designer and architect, a favorite of Gustav III at the end of the 18th century.

SWITZERLAND

Basel Museum für Antike Kunst und Ludwig Sammling (tel: 271.22.02). To Nov. 11: "The Artist's Design." A selection of sculptures, from 500 B.C. to the present, analyzing the development of design principles in nude sculpture.

UNITED STATES

Washington National Portrait Gallery (tel: 311.43.40). To Sept. 20: "Dessins de Liotard: 1702-89." Works by the artist who set the scene for neoclassical portraiture.

New York Pierpont Morgan Library (tel: 695.0008). To Aug. 2: "Sketching at Home and Abroad: British Landscape Drawings, 1750-1850." Includes drawings and watercolors.

POLAND

Warsaw National Museum (tel: 21.10.31). To Aug. 8: "Polish Painting in the Collection of Ewa and Wojtek Fibak." Paintings by Polish artists of the Ecole de Paris.



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MARKET DIARY

Dollar Loses Steam After Early Rally

NEW YORK — The dollar gave up early gains Thursday after discomfiting positive new home sales and first-time jobless claims and focused again on sluggish broader economic trends, dealers said.

STOCKS: U.S. Growth Is Halved

Securities was the fact that investors awoke to a historic unbolting of corporate earnings from the economy's overall performance.

Volume Ebbs on NYSE At the close on the New York Stock Exchange, advanced out-numbered decliners by an 8-5 margin.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Table of world stock markets including sections for Amsterdam, Brussels, Frankfurt, London, Milan, Paris, Sao Paulo, Singapore, Stockholm, Toronto, Zurich, and others, listing various indices and their values.

The Dow

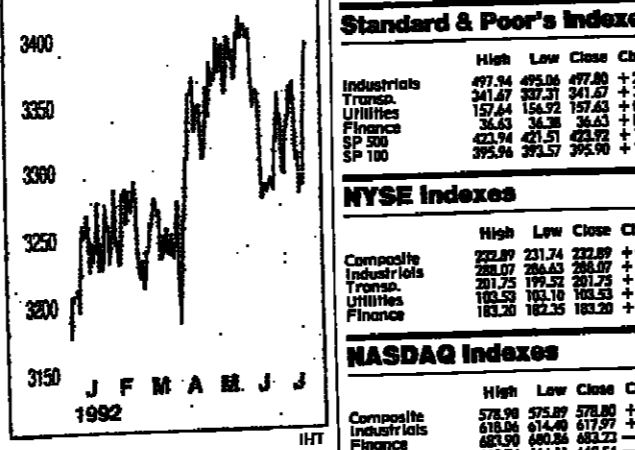


Table of Dow Jones Averages: Industrials, Utilities, Financials, NYSE Indexes, and NASDAQ Indexes.

Table of NYSE Most Actives: Lists top trading volume stocks such as IBM, AT&T, and General Electric.

Table of AMEX Most Actives: Lists active stocks on the American Exchange.

Table of NYSE Daily: Summary of daily trading statistics for the New York Stock Exchange.

Table of Amex Daily: Summary of daily trading statistics for the American Exchange.

Table of NASDAQ Daily: Summary of daily trading statistics for NASDAQ.

Table of NYSE Volume: Breakdown of trading volume by market sector.

Table of NYSE Declines: Lists stocks that declined on the NYSE.

Table of NYSE Advances: Lists stocks that advanced on the NYSE.

Table of NYSE Unchanged: Lists stocks that were unchanged on the NYSE.

Table of NYSE Total Issues: Summary of total issues on the NYSE.

Table of NYSE Total Volume: Summary of total trading volume on the NYSE.

Table of NYSE Total Value: Summary of total trading value on the NYSE.

Table of NYSE Total Shares: Summary of total shares traded on the NYSE.

Table of NYSE Total Pct. Change: Summary of total percentage change on the NYSE.

Table of NYSE Total Pct. Vol: Summary of total percentage volume on the NYSE.

Table of NYSE Total Pct. Val: Summary of total percentage value on the NYSE.

Table of NYSE Total Pct. Sh: Summary of total percentage shares on the NYSE.

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Table of NYSE Total Pct. Vol: Summary of total percentage volume on the NYSE.

Table of NYSE Total Pct. Val: Summary of total percentage value on the NYSE.

EUROPEAN FUTURES

Table of European Futures: Lists various futures contracts such as SUGAR, COFFEE, and SOYBEANS.

Table of European Futures: Continuation of futures contracts including WHEAT and CORN.

Table of European Futures: Continuation of futures contracts including SOYBEAN MEAL.

Table of European Futures: Continuation of futures contracts including CATTLE and HOGS.

Table of European Futures: Continuation of futures contracts including PORK.

Table of European Futures: Continuation of futures contracts including SHEEP.

Table of European Futures: Continuation of futures contracts including GOLD.

Table of European Futures: Continuation of futures contracts including SILVER.

Table of European Futures: Continuation of futures contracts including PLATINUM.

Table of European Futures: Continuation of futures contracts including OIL.

Table of European Futures: Continuation of futures contracts including NATURAL GAS.

Table of European Futures: Continuation of futures contracts including RICE.

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Table of European Futures: Continuation of futures contracts including CORN.

Table of European Futures: Continuation of futures contracts including SOYBEANS.

Senate Passes Energy Tax Breaks

WASHINGTON (Combined Dispatches) — The Senate on Thursday approved tax breaks for employers who buy their workers commuter tickets, but industry experts said the comprehensive energy bill failed to address many issues such as oil drilling in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Reserve and along U.S. coasts.

Revlon Puts Off Stock Offering

NEW YORK (Bloomberg) — Revlon Inc. on Thursday withdrew a \$154 million initial public offering as the appetite for new stock issues continues to wane. The sale was postponed indefinitely.

World Bank Income Increased 37%

WASHINGTON (Bloomberg) — The World Bank's net income rose 37 percent during fiscal 1992 because of streamlined borrowing costs and repayments of overdue loans, bank officials said.

General Dynamics to Buy Equipark

PITTSBURGH (AP) — General Dynamics Corp. plans to acquire Equipark Corp. in a stock transaction worth about \$296 million, the bank-holding companies said Thursday.

Punitive Damages in Asbestos Case

BALTIMORE (AP) — A jury on Thursday decided that four companies are liable for punitive damages in the largest consolidation of asbestos personal injury cases in the United States.

For the Record

W.R. Grace & Co. expects to receive about \$500 million for the sale of five segments of its oil and gas business. The company said it would sell the five pieces, but would retain the coal unit.

U.S. FUTURES

Table of U.S. Futures: Lists various futures contracts such as WHEAT, CORN, and SOYBEANS.

Table of U.S. Futures: Continuation of futures contracts including SOYBEAN MEAL.

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Table of U.S. Futures: Continuation of futures contracts including RICE.

Table of U.S. Futures: Continuation of futures contracts including WHEAT.

Bid for Spain Reported

Thickens the bid for Spain reported.

Company Resumes Thursday's Prices

ASDAQ Thursday's Prices

Table of company resumes and prices.

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SPORTS

OLYMPIC SCOREBOARD

MEDALS

Country Standings table with columns for Gold, Silver, Bronze, and Total medals for various countries.

TENNIS

THURSDAY'S RESULTS
WOMEN
SINGLES
France def. Bulgaria, 6-3, 6-1.

STAR CLASS STANDING

1. United States, 27.0; 2. New Zealand, 26.0; 3. Germany, 25.0.

80-METER FREESTYLE

1. Janel Evans, U.S., 8:25.5; 2. Hayley Lewis, Australia, 8:32.8; 3. Jono Hooley, Germany, 8:39.9.

BADMINTON

Men's Singles
Second Round
Mervana Susilowati, Indonesia, def. Robert Lijahajic, Finland, 15-11, 15-7.

Friday's Events

All times are GMT
Archery - Women 70-meter and 80-meter, 07:00; Men 70-meter and 80-meter, 10:00.

Friday's TV

Europe
All hours are local
Eurosport - 24-hour coverage.

Thursday's Finals

EQUESTRIAN
3 DAY JUMPING
Final
GOLD - Matthew Ryan, Kibitz Tac Tac, Australia.

WRESTLING

90 Kg Freestyle
Final
Michael Gebhardt, United States, 2:07; 2. Franck Danneberg, France, 2:39.

SOCCER

Pool A
United States, 2; Germany, 2; France, 2; Italy, 2; Spain, 2; Portugal, 2; Korea, 2; Mexico, 2; South Korea, 2; Netherlands, 2; Belgium, 2; Argentina, 2; Colombia, 2; China, 2; Czech Republic, 2; Denmark, 2; Finland, 2; Greece, 2; Hungary, 2; Ireland, 2; Italy, 2; Japan, 2; Korea, 2; Mexico, 2; Netherlands, 2; Poland, 2; Romania, 2; Slovakia, 2; Slovenia, 2; Switzerland, 2; Thailand, 2; United States, 2; Yugoslavia, 2.

FIELD HOCKEY

Men's Pool A
Final
Australia, 1; 2. Germany, 2; 3. France, 3; 4. Netherlands, 4; 5. United States, 5; 6. Spain, 6; 7. Italy, 7; 8. Korea, 8; 9. Mexico, 9; 10. South Korea, 10; 11. Netherlands, 11; 12. Belgium, 12; 13. Argentina, 13; 14. Colombia, 14; 15. China, 15; 16. Czech Republic, 16; 17. Denmark, 17; 18. Finland, 18; 19. Greece, 19; 20. Hungary, 20; 21. Ireland, 21; 22. Italy, 22; 23. Japan, 23; 24. Korea, 24; 25. Mexico, 25; 26. Netherlands, 26; 27. Poland, 27; 28. Romania, 28; 29. Slovakia, 29; 30. Slovenia, 30; 31. Switzerland, 31; 32. Thailand, 32; 33. United States, 33; 34. Yugoslavia, 34.

WEIGHTLIFTING

Middleweight (55 Kilogram)
Final
1. Kim Myung-nam, North Korea, 162.5 kg; 2. An Zhongxian, China, 160.0 kg; 3. Gennadiy Ponomarev, Ukraine, 157.5 kg.

JUDO

Women's 48 Kilogram
Final
Emmanuelle Pierantoni, Italy, def. Alejandra Schreiber, Germany, 1-0.

CYCLING

Women's Individual Sprint
Final
Jeni Fiedler, Germany, def. Kim Cooper, United States, 1-0.

BOXING

Lightweight (61 Kilograms)
Final
Heli Myllyluoma, Finland, def. Felix Bwalya, Zambia, 14-11.

SOCCER

Pool A
United States, 2; Germany, 2; France, 2; Italy, 2; Spain, 2; Portugal, 2; Korea, 2; Mexico, 2; South Korea, 2; Netherlands, 2; Belgium, 2; Argentina, 2; Colombia, 2; China, 2; Czech Republic, 2; Denmark, 2; Finland, 2; Greece, 2; Hungary, 2; Ireland, 2; Italy, 2; Japan, 2; Korea, 2; Mexico, 2; Netherlands, 2; Poland, 2; Romania, 2; Slovakia, 2; Slovenia, 2; Switzerland, 2; Thailand, 2; United States, 2; Yugoslavia, 2.

WRESTLING

Men's Greco-Roman 55 Kg Final
Final
Ninth Place: Alexander Rames, Morocco, def. Andrei Sava, Switzerland, 3-0.

WRESTLING

Men's Greco-Roman 70 Kg Final
Final
Ninth Place: Donald Matthews, Switzerland, def. Daniel Henderson, Austria, 3-0.

WRESTLING

Men's Greco-Roman 90 Kg Final
Final
Ninth Place: Franz Schuster, Austria, def. Ivaylo Yanev, Bulgaria, 3-0.

WRESTLING

Men's Greco-Roman 130 Kg Final
Final
Ninth Place: Raymond Paris, Cuba, def. Sergey Sidorov, Russia, 3-0.

WRESTLING

Men's Greco-Roman 150 Kg Final
Final
Ninth Place: Hassan Babak, Iran, def. Jim Brock, United States, 3-0.

WRESTLING

Men's Greco-Roman 180 Kg Final
Final
Ninth Place: Gennadiy Ponomarev, Ukraine, def. Andrei Sava, Switzerland, 3-0.

WRESTLING

Men's Greco-Roman 220 Kg Final
Final
Ninth Place: Alexander Rames, Morocco, def. Andrei Sava, Switzerland, 3-0.

Advertisement for Panasonic featuring a cartoon character and the slogan 'We're On Guard For Fencing Fans In Barcelona.'

Advertisement for 'We're On Guard For Fencing Fans In Barcelona' with a large image of a fencer.

Advertisement for 'We're On Guard For Fencing Fans In Barcelona' with a large image of a fencer.

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, partially cut off, with the text 'SPC Taste But Is I' and 'HEROES: c'.



SPORTS OLYMPICS

A Taste of Salsa, But Is It Baseball?

By George Vecsey

L'HOSPITALET DE LLOBREGAT, Spain — Fidel was not here but, when Castro was seen so regularly, at so many sites, that some of us began to believe there were many Fidels...

THE TRUTH is, these are proud and capable athletes who play in the hermetically-sealed world of amateur baseball, winning 19 world titles and 9 Pan-American titles...

U.S. Woman On Target in Surprise Win

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

MOLLET DEL VALLES, Spain — Laura Meli of the United States won the Olympic gold medal Thursday in women's three-position small-bore rifle...

Schumann, the silver medalist in Seoul, finished with an Olympic record of 885 points here, three points ahead of Kuzmins, who tied with Vladimir Volkovskianine of the Unified Team...

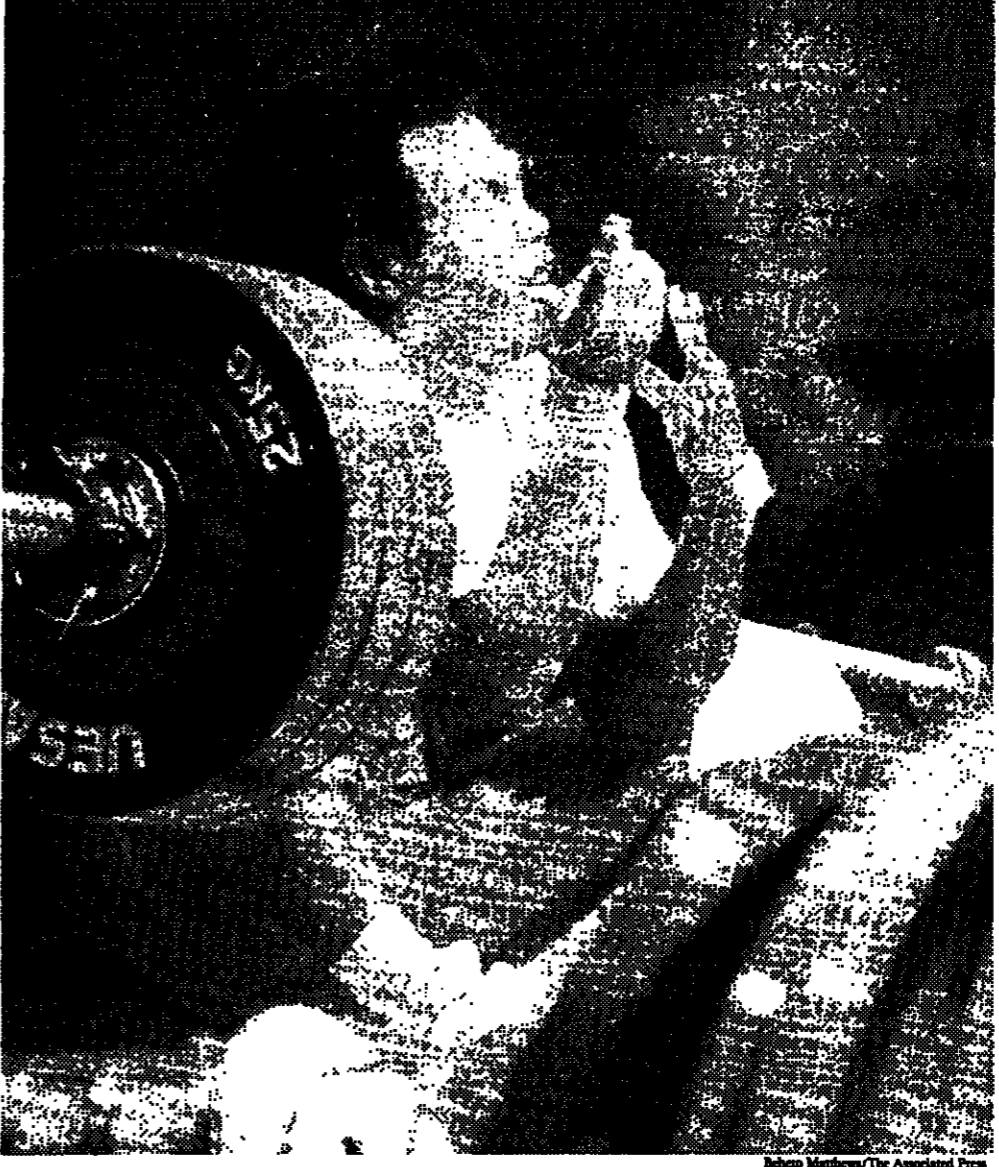
A First for Moldova as Lifter Takes Gold

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BARCELONA — Fedor Kassapou of Moldova won a tense victory in the Olympic weightlifting arena on Thursday to give the Unified Team its second consecutive gold of the competition...

GAMES ROUNDUP

former Soviet republic raised for the first time at an Olympic medal ceremony. "I was concentrating on the idea I had to lift it because the gold medal depended on it..."



Nyoman Sudarma showing how it shouldn't be done Thursday during the 75-kilogram competition. The Indonesian lifter slipped, dropped the weights and had to be helped to his feet by his coach.

In boxing, Marco Rudolph of Germany, the world lightweight champion, advanced to the quarterfinals of the 60-kilogram competition by turning back Vasilie Nistor of Romania in a 10-5 decision...

In men's field hockey, Britain, the defending gold medalist, fired in two field goals and a penalty corner and beat India, 3-1, in a preliminary-round match...

HEROES: China's Retooled Machine Produces Gold

(Continued from page 1) Thompson in the 100-meter freestyle, Qian Hong beat the favored Crissy Ahmann-Leighton in the 100-meter butterfly...

Australia, Ghana Advance in Soccer

BARCELONA — The Spanish press was cheering, the Olympic committee volunteers were on their feet swaying and singing...

U.S. Rallies to Edge Spain in Volleyball

By Sandra Bailey. BARCELONA — The Spanish press was cheering, the Olympic committee volunteers were on their feet swaying and singing...

Advertisement for AT&T USADirect service, featuring a fish and the text 'OUT OF YOUR ELEMENT? AT&T USADirect Service can get you home from over 100 countries.' Includes a list of access numbers for various countries.



# SPORTS OLYMPICS

## China's Lin, U.S. 200 Team Break World Swim Records



Melvin Stewart, who on Thursday added an Olympic record and the gold medal to the world record he holds in the 200-meter butterfly.

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches  
**BARCELONA** — Lin Li of China broke the oldest record in swimming Thursday when she edged Summer Sanders of the United States in the women's 200 individual medley, and the U.S. women's 400-meter medley relay shattered that world record.

Leighton stretched the lead on the butterfly and Thompson was uncatchable on the freestyle.

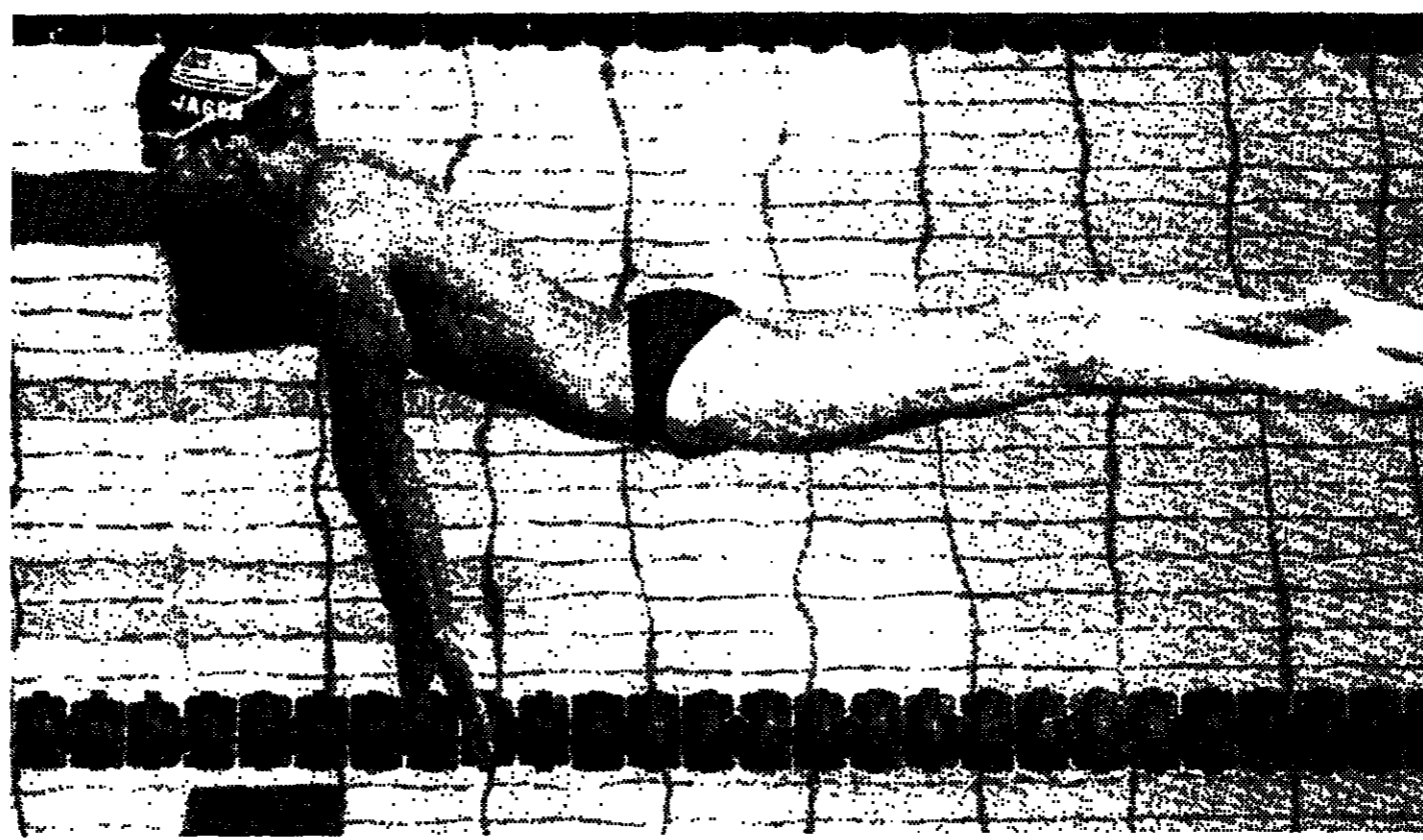
Hunger of Germany won the bronze in 2:13.92.

Evans, a triple gold medalist at Seoul took the 800 freestyle by nearly five seconds. Her time was 8:25.52, followed by Hayley Lewis of Australia in 8:30.34 and Jana Henke of Germany in 8:30.99.

## Ukrainian Gymnast Edges American

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches  
**BARCELONA** — Tatiana Gutsu of the Unified Team won the Olympic gold medal in the all-around competition Thursday, narrowly edging Shannon Miller of the United States.

Miller's silver medal was the best showing ever for an American in competition including athletes from the former Soviet Union. Mary Lou Retton won the gold in 1984 when the Soviets boycotted.



Both Tom Jager, left, and Matt Biondi of the United States finished behind the Unified Team's Alexander Popov in the 50-meter freestyle. Popov's victory gave his team a sweep of the men's freestyle sprints.

### OLYMPIC NOTEBOOK

**Drugs, or Hepatitis?**  
Spanish discus thrower David Martinez, who has tested positive for steroids, could be suffering from hepatitis B, the Spanish team said Thursday. Reuters reported.

## Dreamettes? Whatever, They're on Their Way

New York Times Service  
**BARCELONA** — The only differences between the U.S. men's and women's basketball teams may be the amount of money they make and the level of air space they occupy. The men are somewhere above the rim, and the women look to be somewhere between the men and their grounded competition.

## Former Foe's High Praise

Reuters  
Alexander Gomelski, former coach of the Soviet basketball team, said Thursday that the U.S. Dream Team was spreading the gospel of basketball and would have an enormous impact internationally.

## Courier Is Doubly Victorious

The Associated Press  
**BARCELONA** — Jim Courier won easily in singles Wednesday and teamed with Pete Sampras for a five-set doubles victory over Swedes Stefan Edberg and Anders Jarryd.

## A Showdown as Old Friends Become New Foes

By Harvey Araton  
New York Times Service  
**BARCELONA** — Igor Migliniks could score 30 points Friday in the showdown against Lithuania, and he still would be no hero back home. Quite the contrary. In crossing the border to play for the Unified Team, Migliniks and fellow Latvian Goudars Vetra are regarded in Riga as Olympic basketball scabs.

Arnas Pakula, the public relations director for the Lithuanian basketball team. "They won't be persecuted, but the moral life will not be good."

Sabonis, who plays in Spain, are already established pro players with million-dollar deals.

Marculionis, who admitted there may be "some problems" he wasn't aware of, still pointed out that Titt Soltk, the starting point guard from the 1988 Soviet gold medal team, played in the pre-qualifying tournament for his native Estonia.

**AFTER THE RACE, ALL EYES ARE ON US.**

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**SEIKO**  
Official Timer of the Games of the XXV Olympiad

OBSERVER

Milk of Grouchiness

By Russell Baker

NEW YORK — Mrs. M. G. of Houma, Louisiana, writes that she is astounded by the sweet temper constantly displayed in these columns. "Your veins," she says, "must be rich in the milk of human kindness. Don't you ever get grouchy, fed up and sick and tired of it all, like other people do?"

Ah, Mrs. M. G., if only you knew, I am much too kind to write it, but at this very moment I am not only sick and tired of, but also thoroughly fed up with George Steinbrenner. This is not all Steinbrenner's fault. The New York newspapers, which refuse to let him just fade away, are equally to blame for perpetuating this eternal, inescapable, inevitable, endless, tedious Steinbrenner story.

Do you know, Mrs. M. G., what I shout in my sleep? "Enough, George Steinbrenner!" I cry in the night. "Enough already. New York newspapers, with this Steinbrenner-nerfing!"

The Steinbrenner suit has had it. It is finished, over, done with, used up. Steinbrenner should be pressed like an old rose between the pages of every sports writer's family Bible and left there to be forgotten until a generation or two has passed.

Eighty years ago when this story began, George Steinbrenner was mildly entertaining as a bush league barnum testing the theory that if your baseball team isn't worth advertising you can still lure the suckers into Yankee Stadium with a comedy act.

Does nothing justify giving the good old Steinbrenner tale just one more 50,000-word spread? Well, admittedly, since baseball, which two years ago suspended Steinbrenner for life, is now about to cut him down, we may have newsworthy evidence that life in baseball lasts only two years. This is mildly interesting since the average baseball game nowadays lasts nearly a year and a half, but it hardly justifies the press engaging in another all-out Steinbrenner jamboree.

Yes, Mrs. M. G., I get fed up. I just don't let it show. For instance, let me speak confidentially about James A. Baker 3d, soon to become Jim Baker, that breezy "Jim" signifying he is no longer Secretary of State James A. 3d, but a plain-politician arriving like the U.S.

Cavalry to save President Bush's doddering presidential campaign. What's there to grouch about here? Dear Mrs. M. G., you never think at all about politics down here in Houma, do you? Look: Here's a perfectly satisfactory secretary of state, and here's a four-term president. Now think: If Baker is not only good at diplomacy, but also good enough at domestic politics to run a winning presidential campaign, why is he being wasted masterminding the Bush campaign? He ought to be running for president himself, shouldn't he?

Between us, Mrs. M. G., I'm sick and tired of seeing our smart guys, guys like James A. 3d/Jim, turned into hired guns to save less smart guys who can't save themselves. What's more, I'm fed up with press people who cheer this kind of thing, saying it's great for Bush that James A. 3d is switching to Jim, when they ought to be urging Bush to do right by the country and step aside and let Jim have a run at the main job.

Which reminds me of several other things I'm sick and tired of: to wit, Dan Quayle, Dan Quayle jokes but especially Dan Quayle spelling jokes, and Dan Quayle ticket speculation. Will he or won't he be on the ticket? Should he or shouldn't he be on the ticket? Will Bush keep him on the ticket? Will Quayle make himself a giant of statesmanship by resigning from the ticket?

Etcetera ad nauseam. Yes, Mrs. M. G., I am fed up with politicians, philosophers, historians, reporters and pundits like me constantly dwelling on Quayle. And worse: I am sickened and fatigued by their failure ever to ask the right question about him. This is not, Can Quayle possibly be that callow? The right question is, Why doesn't Bush dump himself, ask James A. 3d/Jim to lead the ticket and deal with Quayle, thereby giving the Republican Party a chance to redefine itself in a creative or possibly murderous fight at the Houston convention?

Yes, Mrs. M. G., I know, I know. There's neither sweet reason nor much fun in politics. It's just business as always. Of course I'm fed up. You think I'm inhuman? That's strictly between us.

New York Times Service

Edna O'Brien's Hard Edge of Heartbreak

By David Streitfeld

NEW YORK — Edna O'Brien has red hair and a scarlet reputation. This is the first thing anyone learns about her, and often the last. The covers of her books over the years have tended to feature arty shots of beautiful naked women, or sometimes portraits of a beautiful clothed O'Brien. She was her own best advertisement, and her splendid stories of unhappy Irish girls in love matched the tales about O'Brien herself — stories that have taken on rather a life of their own. On the back cover of a newly published collection of "True Confessions" is emblazoned a quote from O'Brien: "I am attracted to thin, tall, good-looking men who have one common denominator. They must be lurking bastards."

She's 60 this year, although it's not a number she volunteers. The hair is still a flame, the jacket fashionable cream and gray, the stockings bright red. Some things have changed, however. The author photo on the flap of her new novel, "Time and Tide," is tiny, while the front cover displays no human figure at all. "I thought it was time to chuck that," she says modestly.

The body and its attendant longings are still very much on her mind, however. The preoccupations of a lifetime are hard to shake. "I grew up afraid of men, particularly of Irish men. But when I try to retrace my personal history, I see that the men, starting with my father, were through their own religious and sexual indoctrination terrified themselves of intimacy."

This is O'Brien's great subject, outlined in nearly 20 works of fiction: the failed attempts of men and women to come together. Her conversation about it is a sometimes jarring mixture of cultural comment and personal confession. "I don't believe in promiscuity," she volunteers. "I have never been promiscuous. Even when I was young, I couldn't. But quite a lot of people don't understand that the freeing of the mind is not the same as being promiscuous or being a prostitute. They think to understand and read great literature, to read James Joyce, that by doing that somehow we're sinning."

They? The Irish. She's lived in London for decades but is still so emotionally tied to her native tale that it haunts her every word. "Enclosed, fervid and bigoted," she's called the village she was born in, and the rest of the nation isn't much better. "Sex is dirty, it's covert, it's in the dark in every sense, physical and metaphysical. The split between body and mind, creates this terrible — I still have it — I'm not free, I'm trying to be free but I never will be." All of this is delivered in a lilt that alternately rises to declamation and then sinks to a whisper. More than most, O'Brien talks the way she writes.

Heartbreak. Open a random page of an O'Brien book, and chances are you'll find it. At its worst, this stuff can have the appearance if not the reality of sentimentality, but O'Brien usually employs a hard edge that keeps the mush at bay. Her reviews in the United States, where she's perceived as exotic, tend to be better than in England, with its long-standing distrust of emotional displays. "Time and Tide" was published first



O'Brien's new novel "Time and Tide" has won much acclaim.

in the United States, which is very unusual for a writer from the other side of the Atlantic. As for Ireland, well, until recently, forget it. O'Brien's first novel, "The Country Girls," was published in London in 1960. It seems tame enough now, the sweet story of two girls' coming of age, but a priest near her parents' Limerick farm saw fit to burn all the copies he could find. At the convent she had attended, the horrified nuns made the girls say the rosary for O'Brien every night. Even her mother was ashamed. The novel, as well as O'Brien's next six works of fiction, were banned in the country. "Things have eased up a bit recently," she says, "but ordinary people are no longer ashamed of what I write." Neither does she have any longer the reputation of someone just bashing her native land. It's clear she loves it as much as she hates it, even if the hate makes better copy. "Were I to be born again, I'd want to be Irish. There's something about the spirit, and the wildness, and I mean wildness in a very primitive sense, not just out on the town. They always think I'm running them down, and I'm not. I just want Ireland to be more, in the true sense of the word, educated. Watching "Dynasty" is not educated."

Sexual education, for a start. "I never had a boyfriend," she says. "I eloped with someone at a young age. Big mistake. We all make mistakes." That would be Gertrude, an older man, an established novelist when O'Brien was still unpublished. They had two sons, but the marriage fell apart as the student outgrew the teacher. From her 1964 novel "Girls in Their Married Bliss": "An Irishman, good at battles, sieges and massacres. Bad in bed." They're men who "expect you to pay for the pictures, raped you in the back seat, came home, ate your baked beans and then wanted some new, experimental kind of sex, and no worries from you about might you have a baby, because they liked it natural, without gear." With passages like this, it's a wonder that O'Brien isn't still banned, not by the Irish, but by any of the various men's rights groups. What saves her from the "male-basher" label is that she so clearly loves the big lugs. It's just that they disappoint her so often.

"It sounds like an archetypal thing, but they are in the bars. Go in any bar in Ireland, it's full of men, often very early in the morning. When they do go home, there's eruptions. Irish women have a lot to bear." Not that the females don't contribute to the problem in their own way. "They have a naked kind of tenderness, but it's very hard for them to speak up." O'Brien left Gertrude one night in the middle of dinner. His novels are now forgotten. She never remarried. The life of a writer, she feels, requires a kind of monasticism, but she fell in love often. "I still will be, until I die, a complete romantic," she says. "And that's not bad. That's an advantage."

Because? "I'm not staid or worldly-wise." She continues, "Literature is so extraordinary, kind of miraculous. When it works — it doesn't always work, of course." "Time and Tide," about the sorrowful life of Nell Stoddard, works very well indeed, the reviewers have decided.

Altogether it's a triumphant return for O'Brien. The only novel she published in the 1980s, "The High Road," strayed away from her usual Irish subjects and, perhaps as a result, was considered disappointing by everyone, including the author.

She had bigger troubles during the decade too, brought on by a man. "I was very in love with someone, playing, waiting, and I fell into a kind of — well, I've always compared writing to a dark room, but I wasn't even writing, and I was in the dark."

Then came a burst appendix that nearly killed her. After the physical recovery came mental: psychoanalysis, which she credits with opening up "a seam of language" inside her. She's recovered all her powers, and then some. What she hasn't reclaimed is any sense of happiness. The melancholy of the Irish, she says, runs too deep in her. "I don't think I have much fun. I sometimes have a kind of . . . ecstasy. When I see something extraordinary. Some painting or something. But fun? Or being able to take things lightly. That's not on my agenda. Is it on yours?"

PEOPLE

High-Profile U.S. Chefs Sniff at High-Tech Food

Rick Moon, executive chef at New York's Water Club, is in Washington in a group of chefs to push a boycott of genetically engineered food. More than 1,000 American chefs, including stars like Wolfgang Puck of Spago in West Hollywood, Jimmy Schmidt of the Rattlesnake Club in Detroit and Mark Miller of Red Sage in Washington, have joined the campaign. "If you want to shellac these food products and put them in the window, that is O.K.," Moon said. "But if you want to cook with them, enjoy them and get nutritional value, leavethem alone."

As music fans in the United States snappet up remaining copies of Joe's "Body Count" album, critics complained that Time Warner Inc.'s recall of albums with the song "Cop Killer" did not go far enough. The Combined Law Enforcement Association of Texas said it would continue pushing for a boycott of the album until Time Warner admitted it had made a mistake and apologized.

The comedian Robin Williams has reached an out-of-court settlement in the \$6.2 million lawsuit in which his former lover, Michelle Carter, 28, accused him of knowingly infecting her with herpes in the early 1980s. Details of the settlement were not disclosed.

The actor John Cleeve was awarded \$25,000 (\$47,750) in damages Thursday by the High Court of London. The Sun newspaper was ordered to pay damages over two articles, printed in March, which made offensive allegations about Cleeve's sex drive. The allegations were later withdrawn by the newspaper.

And in the continuing saga over Michael Jackson's face, the Daily Mirror countered the singer's libel suit with one of its own. Martin Cradock, the paper's lawyer, said the suit concerned a news release issued by Jackson's company earlier this week, denying reports in the Mirror that Jackson was "disfigured." The Mirror also came out with a full-page photo of Jackson on Thursday under the headline "Does this lighting suit you then, Mr. Jackson?"

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